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38. The opening of an Agricultural Farm at Alwaye. Grazing grounds for cattle should be set apart on a large scale and the appointment of an officer at Alwaye to look after the advancement of agriculture and the condition of the cattle for the taluks of Kunnathnad, Alengad and Parur, is necessary.

Mr. Kunju Kadir Pillai (Member, Alengad taluk) spoke on the backward condition of the Alengad ryots in the matter of cultivation and the necessity for instruction in agriculture on scientific methods and for using improved machines. To teach them the improved system of agriculture, the Member advocated the establishment of an Agricultural Demonstration Farm somewhere along the banks of the Alwaye river, where experimental gardens for the growth of the different varieties of paddy, sugarcane, cholam &c., might be conveniently established and practical tuition given to the ryots. To aid cultivation, the Member urged the necessity of sinking wells and tanks and repairing the already existing canals for irrigating the places where cultivation suffered for want of water, and of constructing anicuts, wherever possible, with a view to prevent the failure of crops from submergence, and of establishing a manure depot for supplying manure to the ryots. Then he referred to the unsatisfactory condition of the cattle and the want of pasture. The ryots did not know cattle farming. As good cattle was one of the essential requisites for agriculture, pasture lands should be set apart and a Veterinary Inspector appointed in the taluks of Alengad and Parur to improve the cattle of the taluk. He also suggested the holding of Agricultural Exhibitions and Cattle Shows at Alwaye every year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

39. The urgent need for an Agricultural Demonstration Farm for Nanjinad.

Mr. N. Arumugaperumal Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the methods of cultivation adopted by the Nanjinadians were primitive and unwholesome, and the people were so ignorant and incapable of understanding the improved methods of agriculture, that there was no use of demonstrating to the ryots the use of steam ploughs and other scientific apparatus. No initiative could be expected from them. In his opinion, the only effective method was to open Demonstrative Farms, say at Nagercoil, Vadaseri and at Boothapandy or Thazhakudi, to convince the ryots, by facts and figures, of the benefit of adopting improved methods in cultivation. The organization and holding of Industrial and Agricultural Exhibitions in important centres of agriculture, with Cattle Shows attached to them, would prove to be of great use. Another inducement would be to get the sons of the ryots trained in Agricultural Institutions either in British India or in foreign countries under Government scholarships. The Member further urged the necessity of organizing the Veterinary Department on a more useful basis, as the existing breed of cattle was the poorest imaginable, and the question of cattle breeding and protection had not at all received any attention at the hands of the ryots.

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The Member suggested the appointment of more touring Veterinary officers, who would visit each village and advise the ryots in the matter of breeding and housing the cattle and also how to combat successfully the prevalence of epidemic diseases among them. The Member also pointed out the necessity of preventing the export of manure, bones and punnac from the State, as it was not a wise policy to lose the manure we had, when the soil was getting poorer and poorer every day.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Experimental Farms and Agricultural Schools for Nanjinad.

A committee to be appointed to select grazing grounds for cattle.

The useless tank beds in Nanjinad to be reserved as grazing grounds for the benefit of the neighbouring landowners.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the ryots of Nanjinad were suffering heavily on account of the increased expenditure on cultivation, and that the old method of agriculture might with advantage be altered under the advice of the Agricultural Director, so as to be less expensive and more profitable. There were different varieties of soil in Nanjinad, which required different modes of cultivation. The opening of Agricultural Farms and Schools, which would give practical lessons in different methods of cultivation, would prove a great boon to the ryots. The Member spoke also on the necessity of setting apart suitable sites for the grazing of cattle, as cattle were essential to the agriculturists, and he suggested that a Committee consisting of the Dewan Peishkar, Director of Agriculture, Forest Officer, Excise Circle Officer and representatives of the people, be appointed for the purpose. He pointed out also that there were many useless old tankbeds which might conveniently be used as grazing grounds for cattle.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

40. Reservation of Sirkar lands for the grazing of cattle

Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) stated that the fields in the Pathanapuram taluk were very uneven and in some places they were covered with slush 3 or 4 ft in depth at certain seasons of the year, while at at other times, they were very hard, offering great resistance to ploughing. Only very strong cattle could be used for ploughing in these parts. Their agriculture solely depended on cattle, and land owners possessing about 50 acres of fields required about 100 head of cattle to carry on cultivation. As inferior cattle were of no use to them, superior breeds at high prices had to be bought and maintained. Great difficulty was felt in grazing and stabling them. The Member therefore urged that Sirkar grazing grounds should be reserved in each *pakuthi* of the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

41. (1) The dates of the opening and closing of the Kodayar channels should be the 15th

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the present practice of opening and

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